



German-Canadian Benevolent Society of BC Deutsch-Kanadisches Hilfswerk von BC



HAUSPOST

MAY 2026

61st Annual General Meeting

All members are invited to the 61st Annual General Meeting of the German-Canadian Benevolent Society of B.C at **Dogwood Lodge** (500 W 57th Ave, Vancouver, BC V6P 6E8) on **Monday, June 29, 2026, starting at 6:30 PM.** You may also **join virtually** for the presentation of annual reports and the election of the Board of Directors.

If you would like to attend the meeting online, please use the following login information for **Microsoft Teams or scan the QR-Code:**



- **Meeting ID: 270 565 459 840 967**
- **Passcode: cR3v7wt9**

Login is available from 6:15 PM; the agenda starts at 6:30 PM.

This year, the **terms of five directors** are expiring. **Treasurer Mark Sulzberger** has served one term, while **President Rudolf Kischer and Board Director Christine Weber** have each served two terms. Mark Sulzberger and Rudolf Kischer have agreed to remain on the Board, while Christine Weber will be stepping down.

Board Directors Alex Sayn-Wittgenstein and Ulf von Dehn have completed their third consecutive term and must step down from the Board as per the Society's by-laws.

We thank Alex, Ulf & Christine for their dedication and valuable contribution to the Society!

Simultaneously **Lillian Simon** has joined the board as Director this year and is serving her first year.

61st AGM Jun. 29, 2026 at 6:30 PM at Dogwood Lodge 500 W 57th Ave, Vancouver, BC V6P 6E8

CEO REPORT

Dear members & friends,

Exciting and busy times here at the German-Canadian Benevolent Society of BC!

In February and March, we completed the move of 104 residents to our 2 temporary locations (Dogwood Lodge and Central City Lodge). The moves were a tremendous success (everyone transferred safely and without incident) and executed amazingly well by our dedicated staff, wonderful volunteers and caring families. Since the moves, we've been busy "unpacking" and settling in; both residents and staff are working at making the new addresses feel like home.

Since our exit from the Harrison Drive location, the redevelopment has started in full force! Remediation crews are stripping the building, room-by-room, pulling out plumbing, electrical and appliances. Trees being saved have been fenced off, exterior features like patios and landscaping are slowly being dismantled/removed and the building is in general preparation for the rest of the demo crew to begin work. The target for demolition completion is mid-August, allowing for the construction of our brand-new space, a 178 suite, state-of-the-art home purpose built with our Comfortzeit® care model in mind.

All this activity, all these innovations and all this care is made possible in part by donations and financial support we receive from you, the members and friends of the Society.

Thank you sincerely for you dedication and continued support.

Warmest Regards,
Michael Neumann, CEO



OUTREACH EVENTS

Liebe Mitglieder und Freunde,

wir freuen uns, Ihnen unser Outreach-Programm für die kommenden Monate vorstellen zu dürfen. Wie immer laden wir Sie herzlich ein, an unseren Samstagnachmittagen teilzunehmen und schöne Stunden in angenehmer Gesellschaft zu verbringen.

16. Mai – 14:00 Uhr **Eine Filmvorstellung von „Das Wunder von Bern“**



Ein Sportfilm von Sönke Wortmann über die Fußball-Weltmeisterschaft 1954 in Bern und die Schwierigkeiten eines heimgekehrten Kriegsgefangenen, sich wieder in seinen normalen Familienalltag einzufinden.

13 Juni – 14:00 Uhr **Lustige Geschichten & German Trivia**



Ein unterhaltsamer Nachmittag mit German Trivia: Punkte sammeln, Preise gewinnen und lustige Geschichten von verschiedenen Personen genießen!

18 Juli – 14:00 Uhr **Sommernachmittag**



Mit Lorraine Smith am Klavier spielen wir Liebeslieder und genießen den Sommer bei Eiscreame mit Kirschen.

Sommerpause im August

19 Sept. – 14:00 Uhr **Darmmikrobiom, Gesundheit und Gehirnverbindung**

Gut microbiome, health, and brain connection



Vortrag in Englischer Sprache präsentiert von Dr. Leila Pirmoradi. Eine ausgebildete Krankenschwester und Physiologin, die derzeit als Assistenzprofessorin an der Kurdistan University of Medical Sciences tätig ist. Ihre Forschungsschwerpunkte liegen auf Diabetes, Stammzellbiologie und Krebs und Brain Connection.

BOUQUET

“Congratulations and my heartfelt gratitude to the entire team for the successful completion of the move from GCCH. Relocating a community is an incredibly complex undertaking, and seeing it finished is a significant accomplishment that deserves true recognition.” (Family Member)

INFORMATION

Volunteer Appreciation - September 2026

Our annual Volunteer Appreciation Event will take place this September. We are really looking forward to celebrating and recognizing our wonderful volunteers. If you're part of the Society's volunteers, please keep an eye out—you'll receive a formal invitation closer to the date.

We're excited to see you there!

March: Donor Appreciation Event

On March 26, 2026 we held a donor appreciation event at the German-Canadian Care Home at Dogwood Lodge to thank everyone who has been supporting us over the years and making our vision of a new state-of-the-art care home a reality.



We heard from board members and a guest speaker from Kasian Architecture & Interior Design about our floor plans and fundraising items. We also had the privilege of announcing the remarkable legacy of Mr. Helmut Sixt, whose generous estate gift of \$1.35 million will help bring our vision to life. [Read more about him in the attached interview with Fiesal Ebrahim.](#)



Moving forward, we are focused on a \$6 million fundraising campaign to support the elements that will make this new home truly exceptional - from rehabilitation and wellness spaces to community areas and programs that bring connection and vitality into everyday life.

Speak to **Sarah Player our Fundraising Advisor** to learn more about the campaign. [236-998-9560](tel:236-998-9560) or player.sarah@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rudolf Kischer	President
Richard Wittstock	Vice President
Mark Sulzberger	Treasurer
Alex Sayn-Wittgenstein	Director
Christine Weber	Director
Lillian Simon	Director
Petra Kuret	Director
Dr. Robert Shaw	Director
Ulf von Dehn	Director
Michael Neumann	CEO

OAK LEAVES

- **Michael Whitehurst 2026**
- **In Memory of Ingeborg Marczinke 2026**
- **Artur Luebemann**
- **In Memory of Regina Lukat**

Oak leaves are issued for donations of \$1,000 or more!

Interview with Fiesal Ebrahim

Sitting down with Fiesal Ebrahim was an absolute pleasure. He is a man who has dedicated much of his life to supporting his clients with thoughtful, measured guidance. As he shared with us, “Giving is the cornerstone of living, when you have the capacity to do so. It should never feel like a burden—if you have a little more, what’s the harm in helping others?” It is a philosophy he and his firm, Open Door Law Corporation, actively encourage when clients consider how and where to give.

We had the privilege of meeting Mr. Ebrahim at a recent donor appreciation event at Dogwood Lodge, where an extraordinary legacy gift from his client, Helmut Sixt was formally announced. Through his estate, Mr. Sixt generously left \$1.35 million to the German-Canadian Benevolent Society of BC in support of the new German-Canadian Care Home.

When asked what this gift would have meant to Mr. Sixt, Mr. Ebrahim reflected that he would be “pleased—pleased to have helped so many, and to know that people would be comfortable because of where the funds were directed: better beds, outreach support, and shared spaces for community.” His contribution will directly support essential elements of the new home, including rehabilitation and wellness spaces, specialized equipment, and community-centered areas that foster connection, activity, and meaning in daily life.

Mr. Ebrahim described Mr. Sixt as “an unassuming man—thoughtful, reflective, gentle, kind, and deeply generous.” Having immigrated to Canada from Austria as a young man, Helmut made his home in Vancouver’s West End, where he lived for most of his life. He built a successful investment portfolio over time, but remained grounded in simple pleasures: time with friends, sunsets at English Bay, and a love of ballroom dancing.

His legacy will live on at the very heart of the new home. In recognition of his remarkable generosity, the Community Hall will be named **The Helmut Sixt Community Hall**—a space that will be filled with everyday moments of comfort, independence, and belonging.

Mr. Sixt was inspired by a vision for a new model of seniors’ care. The home will embrace the House Model and Comfortzeit® Care Concept—creating small, household-style communities where residents live with dignity, autonomy, and access to meaningful activity and therapy.

Interview with Fiesal Ebrahim

We are currently in the midst of a \$6 million fundraising campaign to bring this vision fully to life—transforming the building into not just a place of care, but a place of connection, dignity, and community.

Together, we have the opportunity to set a new standard for seniors' care—one that replaces isolation with belonging and reimagines aging as a continued expression of life.

What is most meaningful is that, toward the end of his life, Helmut gave deep thought to how he could leave the world better than he found it. Mr. Ebrahim shared that seniors' wellbeing was a cause close to his heart, and that he wanted his gift to be used thoughtfully and with purpose.

This is a responsibility we carry with great care. Every gathering, every shared meal, every moment of connection in the Helmut Sixt Community Hall will stand as a lasting tribute to his generosity, compassion, and quiet belief in helping others.

We warmly invite you to join us in continuing this legacy.